

Amendments to the specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, line 22 to page 4 line 17 as follows:

In one embodiment of the invention, the monitoring program 24 listens over the network for information transmitted from a UPS 12 indicating that a UPS is in a critical state, such as a low battery, an expired battery or a loss of UPS communication with the network. The information indicating that a UPS has entered a critical state can be a trap issued over a network such as a SNMP network, packetized data sent over a network or any type of information that would indicate to the server computer that UPS has entered a critical state. Once monitoring program 24 receives information such as a trap that indicates that a UPS 12 has entered a critical state, the monitoring program polls the UPS to determine what is the critical state of the UPS. The monitoring program will attempt to determine whether the critical state is due to an expired battery, due to a loss of communications with the UPS 12 or if the source of the critical state is unknown. Monitoring program ~~22~~ 24 stores data relating to the critical state on database 22. The data that the monitoring program ~~22~~ 24 stores can include information relating to the beginning of the critical state, the ending of the critical state, the duration of the critical state and/or the state of a UPS each time the program monitors the UPS. Reporting program 26 reports over the network 14 information relating to one or more critical states, such as a critical state duration, or a lack thereof when a user requests the information. Alternatively, the reporting program can automatically report certain information when a predetermined event occurs, such as the occurrence of a critical state.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 10-18 as follows:

If at 36 the monitoring program does receive a response from the UPS after polling the UPS, the monitoring program determines at 44 if the response indicated that the battery is operative. If the battery is operative, the monitoring program determines at 46 if it previously noted that the UPS battery was inoperative. If the monitoring program determines at [[48]] 46 that it did previously note that the battery was inoperative, the program at ~~50~~ 48 calculates and stores the length of downtime for the UPS battery and then stops polling the UPS at 50. Otherwise, if the monitoring program determines at 46 that it didn't previously note that the battery was inoperative, the program stops polling the UPS at 50 because it assumes that the UPS battery is and has been operational.

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 3-8 as follows:

If at 52, the monitoring program didn't receive a response from the UPS that the battery is operative or inoperative, it determines at ~~55~~ 54 if the response it received was unknown. If the UPS response is known, at 56 the program notes a log error in the system's activity log. Otherwise, if the response is unknown, at ~~56~~ 58 the program assumes that it has lost communication with the UPS and can proceed to a method such as, for example, the method shown in FIG. 3.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 6, line 18 to page 7, line 10 as follows:

If the program did receive a response at 66, the program proceeds to 72 and determines the communication state of the UPS. If communication has been reestablished, then at [[74]] 75 the program processes the critical state of the UPS so that the status can be accessed by computers connected to the computer network. If the program determines that network communication is still lost with the UPS, the program proceeds to 74.

At 74, the program determines if it already has stored information that communication was lost with UPS, which is also known as the UPS's node on the network being "dirty." If the program has already noted the loss of communication with the UPS, the monitoring program proceeds to 78 to ~~being~~ begin polling the UPS after a predetermined delay time. Otherwise, if the monitoring program didn't record the loss of communication with the UPS, it notes the loss of communication at 76 and proceeds to 78 to ~~being~~ begin polling the UPS after a predetermined delay time. Thus, in the embodiment of FIG. 3, the monitoring program will continuously poll a UPS that has lost communication with the network until it can determine that communication has been reestablished with the UPS.